

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN (8119 VICE 8117)

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, XR

SUBJ: DISAPPOINTING RESULTS OF OLADE SIX

1. AFTER RATHER DISCOURAGING START, DELEGATES ATTENDING SIXTH OLADE MINISTERIAL MEETING IN MEXICO CITY APPEAR TO BE ATTEMPTING TO FORMULATE SOME KIND OF ACTION PROPOSALS SO CONFERENCE WILL NOT BE TOTAL FAILURE SOME DELEGATES ARE PREDICTING. ABOUT ONLY SUBJECT OF ANY CONSENSUS SO FAR HAS BEEN INEFFECTIVENESS OF OLAD AND INABILITY OF DELEGATES TO AGREE ON ANY KIND OF PLAN OF ACTION.

2. FROM FIRST DAY OF CONFERENCE, MEXICO, AS HOST, COMPLAINED ABOUT POOR SHOWING OF MINISTERS (OUR COUNT SHOWS ONLY SIX MINISTERS AMONGST THE DELEGATIONS), WITH MANY COUNTRIES REPRESENTED ONLY BY THEIR MEXICAN DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES. THE GRUMBLING BECAME SO WIDESPREAD THAT THERE WAS SPECULATION THAT THIS MAY, INDEED, BE LAST ATTEMPT AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETING FOR OLADE.

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3. LACK OF CONSENSUS AMONGST DELEGATIONS APPEARS TO STEM PRIMARILY FROM VERY BASIC DISAGREEMENTS ON WHAT OLADE SHOULD BE AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHO IS GOING TO PAY BILLS. VENEZUELAN DELEGATION, UNDERSTANDABLY WARY THAT THEIR IMAGE OF RICH OIL EXPORTER WAS GOING TO CAUSE THEM PROBLEMS, HAS APPARENTLY REFUSED TO BE DRAWN INTO ROLE OF OLADE'S PRINCIPAL BENEFACTOR, TO CONSTERNATION OF MANY WHO OBVIOUSLY THOUGHT THIS WAS RIGHT AND PROPER.

4. IN ATTEMPT TO AVOID COMPLETE SHAMBLES, DELEGATES ATTENDING CONFERENCE DID MANAGE TO ELECT CARLOS MIRANDA OF BOLIVA IS PERMANENT SECRETARY AND TO DRAW UP FOUR POINT PLAN, NOTEWORTHY FOR ITS LACK OF SPECIFICS. PLAN AS REVEALED, IS (A) STUDY CREATION OF LATIN AMERICAN ENERGY MARKET (WHATEVER THAT MAY BE); (B) PREPARATION OF STUDIES ON JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY SOURCES IN LATIN AMERICA;(C) STUDY OF MECHANISMS WHEREBY OIL PRODUCER NATIONS MIGHT HELP IMPORTING NATIONS EASE STRAIN OF IMPORT COSTS WITHOUT MODIFYING PRICES; (D) OBTAIN NECESSARY RESOURCES AND PROGRAMS TO RESOLVE SHORT TERM ENERGY PROBLEMS AS WELL AS DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY SOURCES.

5. IN CONCLUSION, DELEGATES DECIDED NEXT TECHNICAL EXPERTS' MEETING WOULD BE HELD IN MONTEVIDEO AND NEXT MINISTERIAL IN COSTA RICA. THEY ALSO DECIDED TO CREATE TWO SUB-DIVISIONS WITHIN PERMANENT SECRETARIAT, ONE TO MONITOR PROGRESS OF STUDIES AND OTHER FOR FINANCES.
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